Mitchell Bergens

3rd period

12/3/11

Airplanes in WW1

Even though airplanes were just invented barely a decade earlier they were already being used in war. Each side had their own models and they were used throughout effectively. In fact, World War One probably helped stimulate the advancement of airplanes as they were upgraded during the war and made better, faster, and more maneuverable.

Each side had their own aces. The most famous, the Red Baron, was a German pilot who had a total of 80 kills during the war and was eventually shot down in April 1918 near the end of the war. The other countries that fought for the central powers didn’t come close to shooting down as many planes as the German pilots did. The second greatest ace, a Frenchman named Rene Fonck, had 75 kills total. He was also the top ace on the Allied side. English and American pilots also were close to being the top ace just by a few kills.

As the war dragged on, planes evolved from just being used as scouts over trenches to eventually being fully fledged bombers and fighter aircraft. Interrupter gears were invented to be able to fire machine guns from the front of the aircraft without shooting off the propeller. Bomb bays were also invented to allow for bombs to be dropped out of the bottom of the plane from the cockpit. At the start of the war, a second passenger would throw out the bombs by hand.

Reply Forward